

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 816
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022

The Great Indian Bustard

816. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to revive the dwindling number of Godavan in various States of the country including Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a project named “in-Situ Conservation Plan for Great Indian Bustard” was submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan and if so, the details of the present status thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to release any financial assistance for the said project and if so, the details thereof including time frame if any and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The Ministry has taken various steps for conservation and protection of Great Indian Bustard in the country, including the State of Rajasthan. Some of the measures taken for conservation of Great Indian Bustard are as follows:
 - i. The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according it the highest degree of legal protection from hunting.
 - ii. The species has been identified for conservation efforts under the component ‘Species Recovery Programme’ of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Development of Wildlife Habitat. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the scheme for providing better protection to Great Indian Bustard and its habitat.
 - iii. The Ministry has taken initiative for conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard in collaboration with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Forest Departments and technical support from Wildlife

Institute of India, Dehradun. The Ministry has sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 33.85 crores for the duration of seven years for the programme titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. The objective of this programme is to build up captive population of Great Indian Bustard and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population and also to promote in-situ conservation of the species.

- iv. A Conservation Breeding Centre at Ramdeora and a satellite conservation breeding facility with incubator, hatcher, chick rearing and housing for captive birds has been established at Sam in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan. A total of twentythree (23) GIB chicks, artificially hatched from the eggs collected from the wild are being reared in these conservation breeding facilities.
- v. Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.

(b) and (c) The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/ Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitats for conservation of wildlife, including for Great Indian Bustard. A proposal was received in the Ministry from the Government of Rajasthan for in-situ conservation of Great Indian Bustard. The Ministry has communicated to the Government of Rajasthan that the proposal should be approved by the State Board for Wild Life and submitted for consideration of funding support.
